

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 31st December 1892.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Ahmadi"	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	.....	
3	"Grámvási"	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga"	Calcutta	.....	
5	"Kasipur Nivási"	Kasipur, Barisál	280	
6	"Navamihir"	Ghatail, Mymensingh	600	
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal"	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	.....	
8	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria	700	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
9	"Hitakari"	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
10	"Bangavási"	Calcutta	20,000	24th December 1892.
11	"Banganivási"	Ditto	8,000	23rd ditto.
12	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	Burdwan	335	20th and 27th December 1892.
13	"Cháruvártá"	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400	19th December 1892.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	2,200	25th ditto.
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	825	23rd ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	
17	"Hitavádí"	Calcutta	.....	22nd ditto.
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	
19	"Navayuga"	Calcutta	500	
20	"Prakriti"	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.
21	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	609	
22	"Prithivi"	Calcutta	.....	
23	"Rangpur Dikprakásh"	Kakinia, Rangpur	.....	
24	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	800-1,000	21st ditto.
25	"Sahayogi"	Barisál	342	
26	"Sakti"	Dacca	.....	
27	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya"	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	
28	"Samaya"	Calcutta	3,000	23rd ditto.
29	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	4,000	24th ditto.
30	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	.....	
31	"Sáraswat Patra"	Dacca	300	24th ditto.
32	"Som Prakásh"	Calcutta	600	26th ditto.
33	"Srimanta Sadagar"	Ditto	.....	
34	"Sudhákár"	Ditto	3,100	23rd ditto.
35	"Sulabh Samáchar"	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
36	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Calcutta	500	28th and 29th December 1892.
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	Ditto	.....	23rd & 26th to 29th December 1892.
38	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká"	Ditto	1,000	25th to 29th December 1892.
39	"Samvád Prabhákár"	Ditto	1,500	28th and 29th December 1892.
40	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	23rd, 24th, and 26th to 29th Dec. 1892.
41	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto	.....	Ditto ditto ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	.....	26th December 1882.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchar Patrika."	Darjeeling	50	
44	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Aryávarta"	Calcutta	750	
46	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore	500	
47	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,200	
48	"Champaran Chandrika"	Bettiah	350	
49	"Desí Vyápári"	Calcutta	.....	
50	"Hindi Bangavási"	Ditto	.....	
51	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto	500	
52	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	4,500	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.	
URDU.					
Weekly.					
53	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipore			
54	" Anis "	Patna ... ..	.....		
55	" Calcutta Punch "	Calcutta ... ..	.....		
56	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	Ditto	340		
57	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto ... ..	.....		
58	" Mehre Monawar "	Muzaffarpur ... ..	.....		
59	" Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad "	Murhidaba d	150		
60	" Setare Hind "	Arrah ... ..	.....		
61	" Shokh "	Monghyr ... ..	.....		
URIYA.					
Monthly.					
62	" Asha "	Cuttack	165		
63	" Echo "	Ditto ... ..	.....		
64	" Pradíp "	Ditto ... ..	.....		
65	" Samyabadi "	Ditto ... ..	.....		
66	" Taraka and Subhavártá "	Ditto ... ..	.....		
67	" Utkalprabhá "	Baripada ... ..	.....		
Weekly.					
68	" Dipaka "	Cuttack ... ..	.....		
69	" Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	200		
70	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	420		
71	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	420		
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.					
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
72	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	480	16th December 1992.	
73	" Silchar "	Silchar	500		
Weekly.					
74	" Srihatta Mihir "	Sylhet	332		

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

The *Sahachar*, of the 21st December, has the following on the jury question:—

SABACHAR
Dec. 21st, 1892

Those who are supporting the action of Government in abolishing jury trial are making use of some curious arguments. They say, in the first place, that the great mass of people regard jurors in the same light as assessors, and have, therefore, nothing to say against the jury notification of Government. They say, in the second place, that jury trial was extended to only seven out of the forty-five districts in Bengal, and that its abolition will consequently do very little harm. They say, in the third place, that the Mussalmans are opposed to jury trial, because, in their opinion, Hindu jurors are a little too prone to declare Muhammadan offenders guilty. To these the *Pioneer* adds a fourth argument, namely, that as, under the Criminal Procedure Code, Sessions Judges can send cases to the High Court, and as the High Court is competent to try both on facts and on points of law, there is practically no great difference between a juror and an assessor. To these arguments the writer replies as follows:—

- (1) The masses in this country are unable to give public expression to their views. Sir Alfred Lyall, an officer of the Punjab school, said, in his capacity of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, that the agriculturists there are not fools, and yet the Government and the public do not come to know of their grievances until some positive mischief has resulted therefrom. In Bengal, the labouring and the agriculturing classes are more intelligent than the corresponding classes in the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, and as *asamis* in the criminal courts come chiefly from these classes, the jury notification is causing them intense anxiety. Of course these people are not collecting round Belvedere or crying 'Dohai Lat Saheb'; but there can nevertheless be no doubt that they have been deeply pained by the jury notification.
- (2) The statement that the Mussalmans do not want jury trial is wholly untrue. And it is only certain Anglo-Indian journals that can say that Hindu jurors find Mussalman offenders guilty upon insufficient evidence. Did not a Hindu jury try the Shambazar riot cases? The slanderers of Hindu jurors should bear in mind and consider what the able Editor of the *Muhammadan Observer* said at the Bhowanipore meeting. According to that Editor, it is only in Calcutta that some degree of misunderstanding exists between Hindus and Mussalmans, and no one in the mufassal even dreams of such misunderstanding.
- (3) It is said that jury trial prevailed only in seven districts. But was the privilege on that account the less valuable in the eyes of the people, who have, on the whole, so few privileges? Did not the people hope that in time it would be extended to all the districts? And if the privilege in question was really so small as its enemies pretend to make out, why are such determined efforts being made to take it back from the people? Considering the excitement which has been caused by the withdrawal of the privilege, what is it that makes the Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governor so unwilling to give back the little thing to the people?

And what makes the authorities think that their prestige will suffer if they make this petty concession to the people? Government has committed a serious mistake; but its mistake has done one good—it has removed that which has hitherto obscured the mental vision of the Muhammadans. For it is owing to this mistake that the Muhammadans now realize the necessity of joining the Congress. The Editor of the *Muhammadan Observer* has justly said that if the Mussalmans join the Congress, that movement will become a success in two years. O Mussalman brethren! lose no more time, make a joint effort with all

others, and the notification will be withdrawn. Do not forget that the Congress is the only hope of the country.

SAHACHAR.
Dec. 21st, 1892.

2. The same paper says that the Bhowanipore meeting was attended by over five thousand people, and many had to stand outside the *mandap* for want of accommodation. Hindus, Mussalmans and Christians, all with one mind attempted to protect the interests of their country. The speakers avoided rhetoric and declamation and expressed themselves in a calm, dispassionate manner. And their arguments were unanswerable. The very figures on which the Local Government relies prove the impropriety of its action in the matter. If Lord Lansdowne and Sir Charles Elliott had been present at the meeting they could have seen how deeply have all classes of people been affected by the jury notification. The speakers were respectful to Government; but they asked all present to take a vow in the name of their fatherland to put an end to the retrograde policy of Government.

The Town Hall meeting too was overcrowded, over five thousand people attending it. A good many people could get no seats. Maharaja Durga Charan Laha took the chair, and some big European barristers and merchants were among the audience. It was not possible for ordinary, indifferent or insignificant men to address a gathering like that. Dr. Mohendra Lal Sircar, Babu Jodu Lal Mullik, Mr Pugh, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose and Mr. Turner addressed the meeting, and the writer would like to see some one on behalf either of the Government of Bengal or of the Government of India refuting their arguments.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 22nd, 1892.

3. The *Hitavadi*, of the 22nd December, thus speaks of the protest meetings in Calcutta and Bhowanipore:—

The Calcutta and Bhowanipore meetings. Two monster meetings were held on two consecutive days to protest against the jury notification of Government. The impression created by the extraordinary sights seen at Bhowanipore and in the Town Hall on the 19th and the 20th day of this month respectively will not soon fade from men's minds. It is doubtful whether so deep an agitation was ever before made over a grave political question.

Hindus, Mussulman, Parsis, Christians, Buddhists and Jains were never before seen in such sorrow and disappointment, and agitating heaven and earth in this manner. Say what the enemies of Bengalis like the *Englishman* may, there is not the least doubt that the sight seen in Bhowanipore and in the Town Hall has made the deepest impression on them too. At these two meetings Englishmen, Bengalis, Eurasians, Mussalmans, Hindus, Non-Hindus, the educated, and the uneducated—all expressed with one voice and with hearts beating in unison the deep anguish of their injured hearts. A very important right of ours is being stolen—a something, which imparted power to our hearts, is being taken away—this was the thought which filled and dominated every mind. Every one was therefore eager to attend the meetings. The attendance at the two meetings was about 12,000, and hundreds went away disappointed for want of accommodation. Those who got no seats, and they were innumerable, remained standing in order to see the beautiful, extraordinary and wonderful sight. The meetings were crowded even before their work commenced. And when the meeting began, there were all these countless people sitting or half-sitting, or standing, but all hearing with rapt attention the speeches of the speakers. There was only one thought in those ten thousand minds; there was only vow in those ten thousand hearts. The whole meeting was like a living picture, and there was not in it the least sign of confusion or irregularity. The meeting was calm and composed. Not one either among the speakers or the audience was betrayed into any exhibition of superciliousness of any kind. It was very cold outside the hall and the pavilion in which the meetings were held, but within them it was hot as the summer wind by reason of the thousands of hot breaths. The following from Mr. Jackson's speech is then quoted with approbation:—"I cannot see the slightest evidence of the good intention of Government in the matter. It is my firm conviction that Government's attempt to abolish jury trial has its origin in malice, and a desire to weaken the prestige of Babudom. The reasons which Government assigns for the measure will not bear examination. It says that the interests of justice have led it to take back the right from the people, but a little consideration will make it clear that the

action of Government really had its origin in its hatred against the Bengalis. The high European officials of Government intensely dislike the Bengalis. Their success at the Civil Service examination and their ability and efficiency in the discharge of high official duties are serving only to intensify the feeling of enmity which the officials cherish towards them. These officials cannot brook the criticism of the acts of Government by the Bengali Press. They are therefore determined to check the progress of the Bengalis."

Government's attempt to injure the people has resulted in one great good; it has drawn together Natives and Europeans for the purpose of a common political agitation. Such sweet unity and sympathy between the two communities was never before seen, and, for this, one cannot help thanking the Lieutenant-Governor.

4. The *Samay*, of the 23rd December, says that the jury meeting in the Town Hall was the largest ever held in that place. About ten thousand people came to the meeting, and the Hall was crowded to suffocation. There were present at the meeting men of all creeds and nationalities—Hindus, Christians, Mussalmans, Jews, Parsis, &c. The large number of Europeans in the meeting showed that the *Englishman's* attempt to dissuade that section of the community from the movement had signally failed. And the fact that there were in the meeting many who were never before known to take part in political agitations shows that the jury notification of Government has terrified every section of the community.

SAMAY,
Dec. 23rd, 1892

5. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 23rd December, makes the following remarks on the jury agitation and the Town Hall meeting:—

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 23rd, 1892.

Most likely the *Englishman* will no more call this agitation a "native agitation," and our authorities will perhaps cease to ridicule it as an agitation by the Congress men. The Congress is only a national institution; but the Town Hall meeting was one in which all sections of the community were fairly represented.

The Chairman of the meeting, Maharaja Durga Charan Laha, has never had anything to do with the Congress or the so-called professional agitators. And Maharaja Durga Charan and the other great man who has taken a most active part in this jury agitation, namely, Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, are both great favourites with Government, and are not the men to make agitation for agitation's sake. As a rule, both these gentlemen support, to the best of their ability, the views of Government in almost all political questions. And the fact that such men have opposed the jury order shows what a sad mistake Sir Charles has made. We do not also know what the *Englishman* will say on this point; but every man in his senses will conclude that when men like the Hon'ble Mr. Pugh, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Turner have joined with us, natives, to protest against the jury notification, this action of the present Lieutenant-Governor has been one that has caused universal dissatisfaction, and that the present agitation is a universal one, that is to say, one in which the conqueror and the conquered have united to make a unanimous protest.

In conclusion, we say that if the Lieutenant-Governor has taken this agitation to be a "native agitation," he has made a sad mistake. He will be pleased to note that this meeting was called by influential representatives of Bengalis, Hindustanis, Englishmen, Jews, Armenians, Parsis—in fact, of all sections of the community alike.

6. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, says that on no previous occasion was the Town Hall so crowded as on the occasion of the last jury meeting, when, after a long-standing breach, the natives and the Europeans met on the same platform on the most cordial terms. The scene presented by the meeting was one wholly unprecedented in the annals of the Town Hall.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

The writer next gives a summary of Mr. Jackson's speech.

7. The *Bangavasi*, of the 24th December, says that a man named Girish Shaha having been committed to the Berhampur Sessions in the Murshidabad district for murder of his wife, was tried under the recent orders of Government with the aid of assessors only. The assessors considered the man not guilty; but the Sessions Judge disagreeing with the assessors convicted the accused and passed capital

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

sentence upon him, and as he did not try the man with the aid of jurors, he was under no necessity of making a reference to the High Court. The report of this trial will soothe Sir Charles Elliott's heart in the midst of this jury agitation.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 25th, 1892.

The *Englishman* on the Town Hall meeting.

8. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 25th December, has the following about the Town Hall meeting:—

The influential gathering at the Town Hall was a cause of as much rejoicing to its supporters as it was of heart-burning to its opponents. Light cheers and enlivens all, except animals like the bat, the owl and the jackal that love darkness.

Never before was such a gathering of creeds and nationalities witnessed in the Town Hall. And never before was such a unanimous protest—protest by Hindu and non-Hindu, by British and non-British—made against any measure of Government. The Town Hall, in fact, never presented a spectacle so grand as it did on the occasion of the jury meeting, when six or seven thousand people were literally crammed within its walls. The gathering was a delight and an astonishment to everybody, and inspired hope for the future of the country. To the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor and their Councillors it must have been a surprise. It is to be hoped that Lord Lansdowne will yet show the high-mindedness which is so characteristic of the family to which he belongs, and order the withdrawal of the Jury Notification. It is to be hoped that Sir Charles Elliott will yet abandon his determination not to withdraw the notification, and thus show that there is in him the magnanimity which is characteristic of the British race.

But even if the protest fails in this country, there can be no doubt that it will carry weight with the British public, the British Parliament and the British Cabinet. To suppose that it will not produce the desired effect in England would be to give the proverbially just and liberal English people poor credit for either justice or high-mindedness. But it does not seem that the protest will go for nothing here. Already even the *Englishman* is alarmed about the probable effect of the protest in England, and that is why it has begun to vilify without rhyme or reason. It says that the Town Hall meeting has been a complete failure, and all the efforts and exertions of its promoters have, therefore, gone for nothing; that the protest of such a meeting is scarcely worthy of notice; that only 19 Europeans were present at it; and that the European community has no sympathy with its object. The *Englishman's* truthfulness has always been of this kind, and it is, for that reason, able to deny the success of a meeting which is admitted by the whole Anglo-Indian Press, not excepting even the *Pioneer*, to have been a success. The *Englishman* is truthfulness incarnate!

But in denying the success of the meeting the *Englishman* stands condemned out of its own mouth. For it thinks a protest of the protest meeting and a counter-petition necessary. And that means that, in the opinion of the *Englishman*, the protest meeting has been a success and its petition will tell in England.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 26th, 1892.

9. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 26th December, says that the

The *Pioneer* and the jury agitation.

Pioneer is advising Government to follow a policy in regard to the jury question similar to that which it followed when passing the Consent Act, namely,

not to pay any heed to the popular agitation. The *Pioneer* feels sure that the agitation will stop if Government disregards it, as was the case with the agitation against the Consent Bill. But does the *Pioneer* really think that all popular dissatisfaction in regard to the Consent Act has disappeared? If so, it is undoubtedly mistaken. People have only ceased to give further expression to their feelings because, after the *Bangavasi* case, they fear to do so publicly.

The *Pioneer*, however, is shrewd enough to foresee the probable effect of the jury meeting in the Town Hall upon the British public. With a view, therefore, of weakening the agitation, it is advising Government to silence the zamindars and indigo planters by telling them that jury trial would be restored in cases of rioting. &c. But the writer in the *Pioneer* should know that there are other men besides himself that have brains in their head and can see through his cunning.

10. The *Dainik-o-Samachar, Chandrika*, of the 29th December says that the jury despatch of the Government of India contains many misstatements. Still, if the Secretary of State acts justly and without bias, and if he reads the despatch after reading with care the petition which will go to him from the Town Hall meeting and the speeches which were made there, there can be no doubt that the public will win. But it is doubtful whether the Secretary of State will be able to grasp the whole question, and that his Anglo-Indian Councillors will not take care that he does not understand it thoroughly. It is therefore necessary to set up an agitation in the English press, and to put some influential members of Parliament in full possession of the case. A critique, exposing all the weak points in the despatch, by Messrs. Pugh, Jackson, Hill, and Manomohan Ghose, should also be sent to the Secretary of State.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1892.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Sahachar*, of the 21st December, is glad to learn that the name of Dr. Mohendro Lal Sirkar, has been proposed in connection with the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 21st, 1892.

12. The *Hitavadi*, of the 22nd December, has the following:—"Many will probably be sorry to learn that Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji has resigned the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University. Dr. Gurudas is really an ornament of the native community, and his appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship was an honour done to that community. The question of Dr. Gurudas's successor in the Vice-Chancellorship has not yet been settled. Sir Alexander Miller and Mr. Justice Amir Ali have been named in this connection, whilst the *Statesman* and *Reis and Rayyet* have named Dr. Mohendra Lal Sirkar. The writer will be glad if Dr. Sirkar is appointed; but he must also name Dr. Rashbihari Ghose as a man who would make a fit successor of Dr. Gurudas.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 22nd, 1892.

13. The *Samay*, of the 23rd December, is sorry to learn that Dr. Gurudas Banerji has resigned the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University, and is unable to understand what led Dr. Banerji to this course. Sir Romesh Chunder would have been the best man for the high office if his health had permitted of his acceptance of it. Of the remaining eligible candidates, everybody would be glad to see Dr. Sirkar in the office, as he is a profoundly learned man, and takes much interest in the education of the youth of his country.

SAMAY,
Dec. 23rd, 1892.

14. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Nowgong in Assam, says that the local girls' school was doing extremely well, but the resignation of the head-mistress and the neglect of the authorities in appointing her successor have led to its abolition. Applications for the post were invited and received, but no one can say why the vacancy was not filled up. The Deputy Inspector of Schools and the Secretary of the abolished institution ought to render a satisfactory explanation to the public.

SAMAY,

Considering how keenly the want of a girls' school is felt at Nowgong, it is hoped that the authorities will see their way to the revival of the defunct institution.

15. The *Prakriti*, of the 24th December, says it will not be dissatisfied if Dr. Sirkar is appointed to the Vice-Chancellorship.

PRAKRITI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

16. The same paper says that, considering with what haste the University sometimes makes rules, it would seem as if there were few thoughtful men in it.

PRAKRITI.

The University has recently ruled that no school will be allowed to keep more than fifty boys in a class, from the Entrance class downwards. The rule has no doubt been made with an excellent object, namely, securing better teaching and, as a consequence, better examination results. The rule will undoubtedly benefit the Government schools, but it will not be right or proper to say that it has been made solely for their benefit. It is, nevertheless, clear that the University has shown a serious lack of wisdom and foresight by making a rule which is calculated to strike a blow at all private educational enterprise. The private educational institutions depend for their existence solely on

fees collected from the students, and school fees in a poor country like India cannot but be fixed at a very low rate. Already, in the absence of all restrictions as to the number of students to be taken into a class, these private schools meet their expenses with difficulty. And what the effect of the new rule as regards these schools must be, should be perfectly clear. Many of them will have to be closed, and those that keep on must employ worse teachers on smaller pay in order to be able to keep on. And so the rule will, in the end, lower instead of raising the character of the teaching in the private schools. It is perfectly clear that the framers of the rule are absolutely ignorant of the condition of the private schools.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 26th, 1892.

17. A correspondent of the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 26th December, draws the attention of the Sub-Inspector of Schools at Srinagar in Dacca to the fact that great inconvenience is being felt for the last two months for want of teachers in the circle school of the village of Madhyapara. This school, says the writer, has been smoothly managed for the last twenty years, and it is to be regretted that the present authorities of the school should take no steps to provide it with teachers, although they have been petitioned by the poor guardians of the suffering boys.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1892.

The higher moral training movement.

18. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 29th December, writes as follows :—

Dramatic performances are being given at the Presidency College for the higher moral training of boys. Boys are being made to wrestle and play at cricket and football as a means of their higher moral training. And arrangements have been now made to enable young men and boys to mix most promiscuously and familiarly in a hall in the Hindu School, and this, too, as a means of their higher moral training. So the country is going to be deluged, as it were, with morality. But the *Hindu Patriot*, which is a great supporter of the moral training movement, has heard with fright that cricket and football have often proved fatal to their players. And Dr. Mohendra Lal Sircar can bear personal testimony to the fact that a boy, who got a pain in his chest in throwing down a dumb-bell, had his injury developed into phthisis and died. And such occurrences are far from rare. If, therefore, the University authorities persist in maintaining their rule about compulsory physical exercise for weak and insufficiently fed Bengali boys, many parents will have no alternative but to withdraw their children from school. And many parents have, indeed, been already alarmed at the opening up of many roads to immorality among school-boys in the name of moral training. Let the University and the schools and Colleges then go to rack and ruin. The mischief already done by English education and English civilization should be enough for the people. English morality should not be allowed to aggravate it.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal administration.*

HITAVADI,
Dec. 22nd, 1892.

19. The *Hitavadi*, of the 22nd December, does not think that the Benares Municipality is justified in imposing a water-rate on the temples of Ganesh Deva and Annapurna Devi, the temples in question being public places of worship, the proceeds whereof go to the support of the poor and not into the pocket of any private individual.

HITAVADI.

20. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the miserable condition of roads within the Nimta Municipality in the 24-Parganas district. The Commissioners of the Municipality lately sanctioned Rs. 1,500 for the construction of a municipal office building. But the rate-payers applied to the authorities protesting against such expenditure of municipal money, and not receiving any answer, submitted a memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor, which, too, yet remains unanswered.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 25th, 1892.

The District and Local Boards of Dacca.

21. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 25th December, has the following about the Dacca District Board :—

It is shameful, indeed, that not a pice is spent by the District Board of Dacca for the removal of the want of good water in this district. Many other

districts have spent a good deal of money in giving relief to the distressed, but Dacca has done nothing even in this year of severe scarcity. In some districts technical schools have been established, and a great deal of other good work has been done by the District Boards, but the Dacca Board has done nothing in any direction.

In Nadia, which is a small district compared with Dacca, the District Board has decided to open a tramway line at a cost of fourteen and a half lakhs; but the project of a similiar line in Dacca has been abandoned for the present. What more is needed to show how incompetent the District Board of Dacca is?

The condition of the Local Boards in the district of Dacca is also very deplorable, and few men care to be members of these Boards. The small sums of money placed at the disposal of these Boards are hardly adequate for any work of importance. If a little more power is not given to these Boards and more money is not placed at their disposal, the very foundation of Local Self-Government will be shaken before long.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 20th, 1892.

22. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 20th December,

Road cess collections in the
Burdwan district.

says that petty lakhiraj-holders in the Burdwan district, whose tenures are included, for the sake of convenience, in the road cess statements of the taluqdars, are, by some unfortunate mistake, being made to pay their road cess direct to the Deputy Collector, though they have once paid it to the taluqdars. The collectorate authorities refuse to listen to the representations of the aggrieved lakhirajdars, whose statements are supported by receipts given them by the taluqdars. And even warrants of distress have been, in many instances, issued by the Collector for the recovery of such road cess. If things go on in this fashion, the lakhiraj-holders will have to refuse payment of the road cess to the taluqdars, and then the taluqdars, who are bound to pay the road cess on account of the lakhirajdars, will be obliged to sue the latter in the law courts. The courts will, on the strength of the road cess statements, award decrees to the taluqdars, and the lakhirajdars will then have to pay the cess twice over. It is hoped the authorities will look to the matter and remove the lakhirajdars' grievance.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

23. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 19th December, writes that

CHARUVARTA
Dec. 19th, 1892.

Roads in a village in the Mymen-
singh district.

Raipur, a village in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district, is an important place, and yet the want of good roads is keenly felt there. Last year the District Board of Mymensingh kindly sanctioned the construction of a road from the Netrakona branch road to the Raipur post office, and a road has, accordingly, been tracked up to Kamaruka bazar on the Kansa river, and a little work has also been done. But before the work is resumed, the writer would propose that the road, instead of passing through Kamaruka, be taken through the villages of Asdati, Simulati, Bhattapara and Paikpara. Carried thus, the road would be the most convenient possible, and will cost less than if it is carried as proposed. The writer prays that the work be resumed at once, and the road completed as far as the Raipur post office as soon as possible.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 20th December, says that the old road

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 20th, 1892.

Certain roads in the Burdwan
district.

from Kathgolaghat in the Burdwan district to Bankura has now been abandoned in favour of a new but unmetalled road passing through the village Khandaghosh. Since the construction of this new road, the old road has never been thoroughly repaired, though it is the only means of communication between Burdwan town and some fifty or sixty villages in that district. It is hoped the District Board will repair the road and construct the necessary bridges over it.

The writer also draws the attention of the District Board to the miserable condition of the road from the Idilpur *bund* to Kathgolaghat, and to the inconvenience felt in travelling in carriages owing to the slopes on the banks of the Damudar river not being kept in a proper condition.

(h)—General.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 22nd, 1892.

The new rule in favour of
Volunteers.

25. The *Hitavadi*, of the 22nd December, has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's explanation that the preference which it is proposed to give to Volunteers and their relations over other candidates for employment will be given only when both the candidates for employment are Europeans or Eurasians, and not when one of them is a native, is not reassuring. It will frequently happen that the candidates for employment will consist not simply of Europeans or Eurasians or of Europeans and Eurasians, but of both natives and sahebs, and in such cases the European or Eurasian, who happens to be a volunteer or son of a volunteer, will get the post at the recommendation of Government. Thus the effect of the new rule in favour of volunteers will be that many Indians will be deprived of their means of livelihood. The Lieutenant-Governor's explanation is not at all calculated to allay the fears of the writer.

PRAKRITI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

26. The *Prakriti*, of the 24th December, makes the following observations in connection with the Resolution on the Administration Report of the Presidency Division:—

(1) As usual both the Commissioner and the Lieutenant-Governor say that there was no scarcity in any part of the division demanding Government relief. But the reports of scarcity in the Diamond Harbour subdivision alone, published in this paper, were serious enough, though Government rendered no assistance to the people. Such scarcity occurring in a native State, and left unrelieved, would certainly lead to its annexation by Government.

(2) The educated classes, who have raised the cry of Local Self-Government, have been blamed for doing nothing in the matter of the supply of good drinking water, the want of which, says the Commissioner, led to serious outbreaks of fever and cholera. But the fact is that the people of the country have so many taxes to pay that they have nothing left for voluntary works of public utility and beneficence. Famished people cannot certainly be expected to execute such works.

(3) Honorary Magistrates cause much saving of money to Government, and it is therefore no wonder that the Lieutenant-Governor should praise them.

(4) Mr. Beames' remarks on the native press should occasion no surprise, for he is still smarting under the trenchant writing of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. Has Mr. Beames abused the native press because that press is in the habit of saying that poor, insignificant Englishmen come out to this country and become *Burra Sahebs*? But Mr. Beames ought to know that there are many native editors whose learning, wealth and social position make them greatly his superior. Mr. Beames is of opinion that the native press has no influence over the native community. Does Mr. Beames then think that the native community is influenced by the writings in the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer*? And has he so soon forgotten the monster meeting on the *maidan* against the Consent Bill? The writer is sorry to find the Lieutenant-Governor agreeing in Mr. Beames' view of the native press.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

27. The *Bangavasi*, of the 24th December, says that a branch post office at Mriga in the Mymensingh district has been a long-standing want to about twenty villages in that part of the district. Several petitions have been made to the authorities, but without effect.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

28. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, writes as follows:—

Three or four deaths from starvation having occurred within the jurisdiction of the Jayanagar thana in the 24-Parganas district, the Lieutenant-Governor ordered the Presidency Commissioner to make an enquiry into the matter.

The Commissioner asked the Magistrate to enquire, and in this way the enquiry was made, in the end, by the *da'oga* of the Jayanagar thana, who reported that it was not true that the deaths in question had been owing to starvation, and the matter was consequently dropped by Government. But the Magistrate may be asked, why did he not make the enquiry through Babu Kalinath Datta, President of the Honorary Bench at Jayanagar, who is a member of the Relief

Committee which was got up at that place for giving succour to the distressed? The *d-roga*, too, might easily have got his information from the same quarter, and there can be no question but that information obtained from that source would have been far more reliable than what was gathered by the *paiks* and *chaukidars* under him. The writer has received a letter from Babu Kedarnath Datta, a pleader practising in the Baraipur courts, in which the results of an enquiry made by Babu Umesh Chandra Datta, Principal, City College, Calcutta, the writer of the letter himself, and some other respectable gentlemen, have been given.

The evidence of the men examined by these gentlemen is as follows:—

(1) Statement of Habla Bagdi, of Ranarparh—

I had a son and two daughters. My youngest daughter was only two-and-a-half years old. Her name was Chhani. She had an attack of fever from which she recovered after ten or twelve days. After recovery her diet consisted of *saluk*, *patta* and boiled arum. My other children got no disease. They used to eat *taluk*, *patta* and arum in sheer hunger, but my youngest daughter could not eat much owing to her late illness. And owing to insufficient and bad food she was in a short time attacked with dysentery, but still had to eat the same food. She suffered for ten or twelve days and then died.

(2) Statement of Jajneswar Bagdi, of Ranarparh—

My step-brother, Naba Bagdi, had a daughter named Chhabi, aged five or six years. She was slightly indisposed in the month of Bhadra, owing to her having lived for some time on insufficient food and on greens and arum. She remained on the same diet even during her slight illness which, consequently, increased until she had a regular attack of diarrhoea, of which she died. Latterly she used to pass in an undigested form all the greens and arum she ate.

(3) Statement of Bhutnath Bagdi, of Mayda Duleparah—

I had a daughter named Niti, aged about six or seven. I could procure rice in small quantities at intervals of two or three days; and thus we had to live on insufficient food. This brought on the girl an attack of diarrhoea, of which she died in six or seven days towards the end of the month of Sravan.

(4) The case of Subarni Bagdini, of Pathpukuria—

Her only son Gopal having disappeared owing to the pressure of necessity, she had to remain several days without any food, and then repaired to Manirtat and other villages in search of food. But not getting food in these villages, she returned home, where she got a poor meal at intervals of three or four days. At last she died after having starved for about a week. The *chaukidar* entered in his diary that this woman died of fever and dysentery on the 16th September.

This enquiry was made by Aghor Nath Chakravarti and Kedar Nath Bhattacharyya, in the presence of the following witnesses: Gurudas Mandal, Abhab Molla, Ramjan Molla, Nilmani Mandal, Bhuktaram Mandal, and Nilkamal Haldar, of Baibhata, post office Chunuria.

29. The same paper says that, on the 15th December last, the Presidency Commissioner paid a visit to the Bagerhat subdivision

The Presidency Commissioner's tour to Bagerhat.

of the Khulna district. As on the previous occasion the Commissioner came, alighted from his steamer, saw, and went away, the whole inspection being finished within one hour. He went into the jail, saw the condition of the tank near it, spoke a few words to the Kanungo, and went away. The visit was of shorter duration even than the one which preceded it. The writer fails to see what good can come of such perfunctory tours made by the high officials under Sir Charles Elliott's pressure, and he is rather inclined to think that such tours are calculated to do mischief.

30. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 26th December, says that although upwards of three months have expired since Raja Suryya Kanta Acharyya petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor for redress, no answer has been received by him as yet.

Raja Suryyakanta's petition to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Will not justice be, then, done to the Raja?

31. A correspondent of the same paper writes from Sunamganj in Sylhet that over and above the great distress in the place, cholera has made its appearance and has nearly depopulated

Sunamganj in Sylhet.

some villages. The present subdivisional officer, Babu Jagabandhu Nag, is, in the writer's opinion, quite a worthless officer compared with his two predecessors,

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 15th, 1892.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 26th, 1892.

DACCA GAZETTE.

Babus Jogesh Chandra and Prakash Chandra, and as he is a very lazy man and has made himself unpopular, he should go to some other place.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

32. The *Bangavasi*, of the 24th December, has learnt that famine has appeared in Dainaganj, Durgapur, and other places in the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Rice is selling at 6 to 7 rupees per maund. Some people are starving, and others are living on insufficient meals. This year's harvest will not be a good one.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 27th, 1892.

33. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 27th December, has the following:—
A hailstorm has destroyed all the paddy in Kuch Bihar, and the outturn of the paddy crop almost everywhere in Bengal is not at all hopeful. Scarcity is, therefore, gradually on the increase, and the price of rice is continually rising. In some places men are dying of sheer starvation. It is very curious that our Lieutenant-Governor is taking no steps against the impending famine. We do not understand this peculiar policy of Sir Charles Elliott. God has made him a great man, and it seems that his high position has made his understanding something unique and wonderful. When any matter is discussed in the native newspapers he invariably says: "Why do these newspaper editors cry so much? If they cease to make such noise I may do something." We have not, for this reason, said anything so long about this severe distress in the country. Ruler of seventy millions of human souls, if you do not try your best to save the famine-stricken population of Bengal, the omission may not appear to you a serious one; but all other men will in one voice censure your conduct. We therefore ask you not to lose more time in adopting measures against the coming danger. Your great responsibility as the ruler of Bengal demands prompt action.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 22nd, 1892.

34. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi*, of the 22nd December, says that cholera in a severe form has broken out at Baganchra in the district of Nadia, and a large number of people have already fallen victims to the disease. It has created quite a panic in the place, and even ordinary travellers shun the village. Scarcity of water is the cause of the outbreak. The people of Baganchra and seven or eight villages near it depend for their water-supply on a *beel*, in which the water is only 1 or 1½ cubits deep. The Maharaja of Krishnagore, who is the proprietor of the *beel*, has been repeatedly asked to re-excavate it, but in vain. The Maharaja is again entreated to undertake the re-excavation and thereby save the villagers from scarcity of water.

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 23rd, 1892.

35. The *Banganivasi* of the 23rd December hopes that the coming Congress will not content itself with passing resolutions, but will do some tangible work for the good of the country. The Congress will do a great thing if it can advance the trade in country cloth as against the business in imported cloth. And with so many wealthy people at its back, the Congress should not find the work too hard. Money may also be raised, if necessary, by slightly raising the price of the Congress tickets. Mere speech-making and resolving will do no good to the country.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

36. The *Bangavasi*, of the 24th December, has learnt that cholera is raging in Aligram and four or five adjoining villages in the Birbhum district. Eighteen persons have already succumbed to the disease. Want of good water for drinking and bathing purposes and of good medical advice is keenly felt, and representations to the authorities have failed.

BANGAVASI.

37. Panchananda, the *Bangavasi's* humourist, gives in the issue of that paper for the 24th December the following description of some of the cartoons which will appear in its ensuing number:—

Cartoon No. 1.—Sir Auckland Colvin will be shown as rising in the sky in one bound from Allahabad, and, after performing a series of somersaults in the air

descending into the hold of the ship *Ostrich*, whilst that 'Pi'-killer, Captain Hearsey, is giving him the chase and shouting 'Catch, catch.' There is an immense gathering of people, and the cry 'It is all over, it is all over,' is heard on all sides. In the meanwhile, the runaway *Lat* of the *Merua* country (North-Western Provinces) is crying at the top of his voice (in the manner of that wicked, cowardly, and imbecile fellow, Gadadhar, in the Bengali novel)—'O sister! they are very near catching us. Weigh anchor.'

Cartoon No. 7 will show the Deputy Babu, who has been busy looking to the weighment of *ganja* in the ganja godowns, as surprised to find that it is very near evening, and ordering candles to be brought in order that he may dispose of the case in which a man stands charged with the theft of a small quantity of ginger. Just at this moment the Court Inspector Babu makes his appearance and demands that the *asami* be made over to him. The Deputy says, "The trial has not yet begun." The Court Inspector replies, "The gates of the jail will be closed presently. Do you please at once pass a sentence of imprisonment, and then proceed with the trial in a leisurely manner." The Deputy—"All right. Two years." "You could have, Sir, sent the imprisonment order by post, and that would have saved both of us a world of trouble," says the defendant. But he is not allowed to proceed further in his address and is dragged into jail.

Cartoon No. 49.—The *Englishman* is carrying on his back a large war drum, which *Illut* Saheb (Sir Charles Elliott—lit. Filth Saheb) is beating. The thunder voice of the jury meeting makes the drum to burst. Whereupon the *Englishman* and *Illut* (Filth) stand face to face, gaping widely, and say 'The drum has burst. What is to be done now?'

38. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 24th December, says that the influx of salt water some months ago into the villages Kharamba and Bhatipota within the jurisdiction of the Bhangar thana in the 24-Parganas has led to an outbreak of cholera in those and several adjoining villages. Within the space of three weeks five men died in Tardaha, three in Naskarat, and one in Andalgarh, and within a week eight men died in Kharamba. What with scarcity and what with disease, the villagers are very badly off, indeed.

39. The *Sanjivani*, of the 24th December, says that a letter signed by A lady writers in the *Morning Post* newspaper. "A lady," and condemning the agitation against the jury notification, has appeared in the *Morning Post* newspaper. The correspondent has called the Bengalis "monkeys," and has otherwise vilified them in language which could scarcely come from a "lady." She must be of a very vile nature herself who can write such a letter. Indeed, to call such a woman "a lady" would be a misapplication of the term. The enquiry may well be made, what sort of a woman is this, or rather in what forest the Editor of the *Morning Post* caught hold of this "monkey"?

PRAKRITI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

ASSAM PAPERS.

40. The *Paridarshak*, of the 16th December, is astonished to hear that, with The Sylhet Government Pleader-ship. so many senior pleaders to choose from, Ananta Babu, a junior member of the Sylhet bar, has been appointed to officiate as Government Pleader. The writer says that, in the absence of the Deputy Commissioner from the district, Babu Chandra Nath Nandi, Extra Assistant Commissioner, has made this appointment, and hopes that such things will not be done in future.

PARIDARSHAK,
Dec. 16th, 1892.

41. The same paper is glad to see Mr. Lee, Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj in Sylhet, transferred. But the appointment of Babu Rajmohan De in Mr. Lee's place has not given universal satisfaction. It would have been better for Habiganj if a competent officer like Babu Sarat Chandra or Babu Jogesh Chandra had been given charge of this important subdivision.

PARIDARSHAK.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 31st December 1892.

K. J. H.—Reg. No. 6342C—73—3.1.93.